Domestic Violence Services

DVS

OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

The DVS shelter is a 7-bedroom home in a confidential location.

Food room.

Supply room.

Bedroom.

Outdoor play area.

Children's area.

Kitchen.

DVS is one of the first shelters in the nation to house pets.

Home for the Holidays?
Last Christmas, 7 families with 14 children stayed at the shelter.

In an average week:

- 10 families will stay in the shelter.
- DVS will provide legal advocacy, court accompaniment and support to 34 new clients.
- 8 clients will be served in daily protection order clinics held at a courthouse.
- Support services such as rental assistance, food box, 911 cell phone, and counseling services to another 5 clients will be provided.

On an average day:

- 26 phone calls on 24-hour crisis and informational line will be answered.
- 16 women and children will be housed.
- 13 loads of laundry and dishes will be done.
- Clients will prepare and eat 48 meals.
- 8-10 rolls of TP / paper towels will be used.

In 2009, DVS...

- Provided emergency shelter for 376 domestic violence victims and their children (172 women, 204 children, and 2 men).
- Provided 6,023 bednights.
- Answered 8,384 calls on our 24-hour crisis line.
- Saw 2,081 visits to support groups.
- Povided legal advocacy to 1,623 clients.
- Assisted with 373 protection orders.
- Provided over 4,500 advocacy and group counseling hours.

We rely on our generous community to provide our services. You make all the difference when you donate needed day-to-day items, volunteer, or donate money. Please let us know if you would like more information about our agency and the services we provide.

Business Office: (509) 735-1295 24 Hour Crisis Line: (509) 582-9841 www.DVSBF.org

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About DVS:

The mission of Domestic Violence Services of Benton and Franklin Counties (DVS), a non-profit agency, is to advocate for and empower domestic violence victims by providing free, safe and confidential shelter and support services.

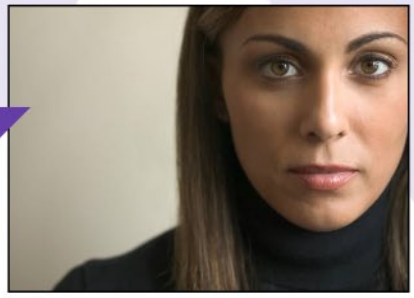
A member of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, DVS is a trusted leader and partner in creating a community free from all forms of violence and oppression. DVS advocates are available 24-hours a day to assist anyone who has questions or concerns about domestic violence.

"It's difficult for someone on the outside to understand the isolation and hopelessness a battered woman feels. Sometimes looking back, it's difficult for me to understand it myself, because I'm in such a different state of mind today. The most important thing for a woman living in an abusive relationship needs to know is – she needs to tell someone what's going on, there is help available, she's not alone."

-Brenda

"He was just hitting me and hitting me. He wouldn't stop. I didn't know what to do. I took the baby and ran out the door – it was winter and I was barefoot and without a coat. I just ran to the nearest gas station and asked them to call the police. We ended up at the shelter. It was tough, but they were so kind to us there. They gave us everything we needed – shoes, clothes, food, went to court with me. It was the first time that I had felt safe in a long time."

Anonymous



DVS Services:

- Staffed 24-hour confidential shelter & crisis line: (509) 582-9841
- Emergency housing, food, & clothing
- Spanish & English language support groups
- Advocacy based counseling
- Rental assistance & housing services
- Children's advocacy services (shelter)
- Good Kids program
- HopeLine phone program
- Emergency 911 cell phone program
- Community voice-mail
- Starting Over - donation program for new household set-up
- Legal advocacy & protection order clinics
- Co-located advocacy services at Kennewick & Richland police departments and the Kennewick Community Service Office
- Counseling services
- Emergency client funding
- Dual-treatment domestic violence/chemical dependency support groups
- Comprehensive referral services
- Safety planning
- Community education and outreach
- Food boxes
- Volunteer advocacy program
- Certified assistance with address confidentiality program
- Mother mentoring
- Diaper program
- Christmas family adoption
- Mother's Day celebration & brunch

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